

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A wireless network detection system comprising:
a connection component that can connect a device to a plurality of wireless networks; and,
a detection component that identifies a type of an available wireless network.
2. The system of claim 1, identification by the detection component being based, at least in part, upon receipt of an information element from a wireless network beacon.
3. The system of claim 1, the wireless network comprising at least one of an unencrypted network, a Wired Equivalent Privacy (WEP) network requiring a WEP key, a Wi-Fi Protected Access (WPA) encrypted network requiring a WPA pre-shared key, an 802.1x-enabled network that does not support WPA, an 802.1x-enabled network that does support WPA and a wireless provisioning services (WPS) support-enabled network.
4. The system of claim 1, identification by the detection component being based, at least in part, upon iterative probing of the available network.
5. The system of claim 4, wherein the detection component attempts to connect to the wireless network as a wireless provisioning services-supporting network, the detection component determining that the network is a pre-shared key network if a failure in an authentication sequence from a wireless network beacon is determined.
6. The system of claim 5, the detection component determining that the network is a Wi-Fi Protected Access network if a failure in a particular piece of the authentication sequence that identifies a wireless provisioning services supporting network is determined.

7. The system of claim 6, the particular piece of the authentication sequence comprising a type, length value sequence.
8. The system of claim 6, the detection component determining that the network is a wireless provisioning services supporting network if the particular piece of authentication sequence identifying the wireless provisioning services supporting network is received from the wireless network beacon.
9. The system of claim 1, wherein the detection component sends at least one of a connect message, an 802.1x EAPOL start message, an 802.1x identity message.
10. The system of claim 1, wherein the detection component receives at least one of an associated message, an 802.1x identity request message, an authentication message and a provisioning message from a wireless network beacon.
11. A client computer system employing the system of claim 1.
12. A method facilitating wireless network detection comprising:
 - attempting to connect to a wireless network as a wireless provisioning services supporting network;
 - determining whether the attempt was successful; and,
 - prompting for a wired equivalent privacy key, if the attempt was not successful.
13. The method of claim 12 further comprising at least one of the following acts:
 - waiting up to a threshold period of time for a particular piece of authentication information that identifies a wireless provisioning services supporting network;
 - determining whether the particular piece of authentication information has been received;
 - identifying the wireless network as a Wi-Fi Protected Access network, if the particular piece of authentication information has not been received; and,

identifying the wireless network as a wireless provisioning services supporting network, if the particular piece of authentication information has been received.

14. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 12.

15. A method facilitating wireless network detection comprising:
determining whether a wireless network supports 802.1x;
identifying the wireless network as an wired equivalent privacy network requiring a wired equivalent privacy key, if the wireless network does not support 802.1x.
determining whether the wireless network supports wireless provisioning services, if the wireless network supports 802.1x; and,
identifying the wireless network as an 802.1x network, if the wireless network does not supporting wireless provisioning services; and,
identifying the wireless network as a wireless provisioning services supporting network, if the wireless network supports wireless provisioning services.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising at least one of the following acts:
determining whether the wireless network is encryption enabled;
determining whether the wireless network is a Wi-Fi Protected Access network;
and,
determining whether the wireless network is a Wi-Fi Protected Access pre-shared key network;

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising at least one of the following acts:
identifying the wireless network as unencrypted, if the wireless network is not encryption enabled; and,
identifying the wireless network as a Wi-Fi Protected Access pre-shared key network.

18. A computer readable medium having stored thereon computer executable instructions for carrying out the method of claim 15.
19. A data packet transmitted between two or more computer components that facilitates wireless network detection, the data packet comprising:
 - a data field comprising information identifying a type of available wireless network connection, the type of available wireless network detection being based, at least in part, upon iterative probing of the available wireless network.
20. A data packet transmitted between two or more computer components that facilitates wireless network detection, the data packet comprising:
 - a data field comprising an IEEE 802.11 information element providing information as to whether wireless provisioning services are supported, and, whether 802.1x authentication is required.
21. A computer readable medium storing computer executable components of a wireless network detection system comprising:
 - a connection component that can connect a device to a plurality of wireless networks; and,
 - a detection component that identifies a type of an available wireless network.
22. A wireless network detection system comprising:
 - means for connecting a device to a plurality of wireless networks; and,
 - means for identifying a type of an available wireless network.